



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1134

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 MARCH 2022
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12)

1134. Mr L J Basson (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What are the (a) reasons that the situation of empty reservoirs in the south of Johannesburg which began five years ago has not been addressed and (b) details of the water and/or reservoirs challenges faced by residents because the Meyershill and South Hills reservoirs were empty since in February 2022 and residents did not have a drop of water for nine days, and that there has been no water in the areas of Linmeyer, Risana, South Hills and Oakdene since 10 March 2022 as the reservoirs are also empty?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (a) Johannesburg Water pumps water from the Rand Water's Meyershill and Foresthill reservoirs to its own reservoirs that supply water to Linmeyer, Risana, South Hills, Oakdene and surrounding areas.
- (b) Due to electrical and mechanical incidents at the Rand Water's plants and pumps, water levels at the reservoirs run very low or are emptied necessitating closure of Johannesburg Water's pumps to safeguard against damage.

During the last incident in the beginning of March 2022, arrangements were made for Johannesburg Water to pump water directly from the inlet pipe works at the Meyershill reservoir to restore water supply in the South Hills area. This stabilised water supply to the South Hills area since mid-March 2022 and also allowed Rand Water to build capacity at the Meyershill reservoir.

The significant electricity challenges that impact Rand Water's supply emanate from power failures due to obsolete and aged equipment as well as load-shedding implemented by Eskom and municipalities that supply electricity to Rand Water plants.

Rand Water has engaged Eskom and Municipalities regarding the repairs on their substations with the intention of a long-term solution to replace obsolete and aged equipment. In addition, Water has implemented and commissioned standby generators for its tertiary pumping stations to ensure 50% water supply during power failures.

The standby generators initiative has been expanded to four Booster Stations, including Eikenhof, Mapleton, Palmiet and Zwartkopjes. The standby generators for these four Booster Stations will be commissioned before end of 2022.


Rand Water has an extensive maintenance programme to manage plant reliability and availability. The entity also has a five-year infrastructure development plan which includes renewal and augmentation of the infrastructure. Rand Water has allocated approximately R28 billion over the next five years with 45% of this dedicated to renewal of the infrastructure.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ ~~NOT RECOMMENDED~~/ AMENDED ✓


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 21/04/22

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DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 4/5/22